(a) whether it is a fact that Goverment provide newsprint to newspapers at lower rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the quantum of newsprint provided to some major newspapers in the country during the last three years; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that full utilisation of the allotted quota by Government is not being done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no statutory control over the prices of newsprint. The newspapers are free to use either imported newsprint or indigenously produced newsprint.

Proposal to take over IDPL (Tamil Nadu Unit)

*209. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that her Ministry is considering a proposal to take over the IDPL (Tamil Nadu Unit) from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for its revival;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a representative from Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) under the instructions of C&MD, ALIMCO had visited the IDPL (TN) plant and had a detailed study about the plant; and

(d) if so, the details of the report submitted and further steps being taken for revival of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Although there is no formal proposal from the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, the administrative Ministry of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited for bringing Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals (Tamil Nadu)

Ltd., Chennai under the administrative control of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, a request from employees of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals in this regard was examined in this Ministry in consultation with Artificial Limbs Manufacuturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Kanpur and in view of the present production, financial and technological state of IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Ltd., it was not found possible to consider the proposal favourably.

(d) IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Ltd., Chennai is a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) that comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers. IDPL is a sick company under reference to the BIFR. The future of the unit at Chennai is linked with the revival and future of IDPL and the latter would be determined by the proceedings and the final decision of the BIFR.

Ashram School for Scheduled Tribes

*210. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the scheme of opening Ashram Schools for Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of schools opened, till date, State-wise;

(d) the number of students getting benefit of these schools;

(e) the number of teaching staff employed in these schools; and

(f) the funds allotted to these schools?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Since 1990-91, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing a scheme, called Establishment of Ashram Schools in the Tribal Sub Plan areas. Under this scheme land is to be made available, free of cost, by the concerned State Govt./UT. So far as the construction cost is concerned, the Central Government provides 50% of the construction cost to the State Governments and 100% to UTs. The expenditure on non-recurring items (i.e., purchase of equipments, furniture and furnishing, books, etc.) is shared on 50:50 basis between the Central and State Government/UT. The location of the Ashram